

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A multimedia system, comprising:

 a bulk decoder coupled to a network and a network data interconnect, the bulk decoder configured to receive decoding data received from the network and decode the data being received from the network, the bulk decoder configured to transmit transmitting the decoded data to the network data interconnect; and

 output devices coupled to the network data interconnect for accepting the decoded data, the decoded data being transmitted from the bulk decoder to the output devices via the network data interconnect; and

 a server coupled to the network, the server configured to control the bulk decoder.

Claim 2 (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the bulk decoder comprises:

 a central processor;

 a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

 at least one decoder coupled to the demultiplexer; and

 a multiplexer coupled to the at least one decoder.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 2, the bulk decoder further comprising a processor connected to coupled to the demultiplexer and the multiplexer, wherein the processor is located between the network and the network data interconnect, the

processor configured to convert data in various data formats into data represented by ~~one~~ a single protocol format.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, wherein each output device comprises a desktop unit.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, wherein each output device comprises a storage.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of bulk decoders coupled to the network and the network data interconnect.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A network system, comprising:
a server coupled to a network;
a bulk decoder coupled to the network and a data network interconnect, the bulk decoder configured to receive a signal from the network, the bulk decoder being controlled by the server, the bulk decoder including,

 a processor, the processor capable of receiving the signal from the network, the processor further capable of converting the signal into a single protocol format signal when the signal includes intermixed data types; and

 at least one device coupled to the network data interconnect, the device configured to accept a decoded signal from the bulk decoder, the decoded signal being transmitted from the bulk decoder via the network data interconnect.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The network system of claim 7, wherein the bulk decoder further includes:

at least one decoder for decoding the signal from the network.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The network system of claim 8, further comprising:

a demultiplexer coupled between the network and the processor and the at least one decoder for demultiplexing the signal; and

a multiplexer coupled to the processor and the at least one decoder for multiplexing the decoded signal.

Claim 10 (Original): The network system of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of bulk decoders coupled to the network.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A bulk decoder for decoding signals received from a network, comprising:

a central processor;

a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;

a multiplexer coupled to the central processor; and

at least one decoder coupled between the demultiplexer and the multiplexer, the at least one decoder configured to decode the signals,

wherein the bulk decoder is configured to distribute decoded signals to corresponding output devices through a network data interconnect.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The bulk decoder of claim 11, further comprising a processor for converting signals received from the network having various data types into single protocol format signals.

Claim 13 (Original): The bulk decoder of claim 12, wherein the processor comprises a video processor.

Claim 14 (Original): The bulk decoder of claim 12, wherein the processor comprises an audio processor.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for sharing decoding resources in a network system, the method comprising:

transmitting a signal to a network, wherein the signal comprises intermixed data signals;

decoding the signal using a bulk decoder coupled to the network and a network data interconnect, the bulk decoder being capable of decoding the signal into single data type signals having single protocol format signals, wherein decoding the signal includes:

demultiplexing the signal to obtain individual data signals,

decoding the individual data signals, and

multiplexing the decoded individual data signals to obtain a decoded signal;

transmitting the decoded individual data signals to the network data interconnect; and controlling the bulk decoder using a server coupled to the network.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17 [[16]], further comprising transmitting the multiplexed decoded individual data signals to corresponding output devices coupled to the network data interconnect.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17 [[16]], further comprising representing the decoded individual data signals by one protocol.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, further comprising adjusting the number of bulk decoders coupled to the network in accordance with a system load.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A multimedia system, comprising:
a bulk decoder coupled to a network and a network data interconnect, the bulk decoder configured to decode data being received from the network and transmit the decoded data to the network data interconnect, the bulk decoder being capable of converting data received from the network in various data types into data represented by a single protocol format, the bulk decoder further being capable of transmitting the decoded data to the network data interconnect; and

an output device coupled to the network data interconnect for accepting the decoded data transmitted via the network data interconnect;[[; and]]

a network server coupled to the network, the network server configured to control the bulk decoder.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A bulk decoder for decoding signals received from a network, comprising:

 a central processor;
 a demultiplexer coupled to the central processor;
 a multiplexer coupled to the central processor;
 at least one decoder coupled between the demultiplexer and the multiplexer; and
 a processor for converting signals from the network including various data types into single protocol format signals, wherein the bulk decoder is configured to distribute single protocol format signals to corresponding output devices.